

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
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P R 221330Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1204
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 3187

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, ETRD, BR
SUBJ: EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT IN BRAZIL COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR
QUESTION

1. SUMMARY. AN UNNAMED COMMUNIST DIPLOMAT IN BRASILIA
REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT: (A) THE FEAR OF THE TWO GREAT
POWERS CONCERNS THE DANGERS OF DEVELOPMENT OF GERMAN NUCLEAR
TECHNOLOGY; (B) THE POSSIBILITY THAT GERMANY WOULD TEST A
NUCLEAR DEVICE IN REMOTE BRAZIL FRIGHTENS MANY COUNTRIES
OF THE WORLD; AND (C) REGARDING US AND SOVIET CONCERNS ABOUT
THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT, "WHEN THE TWO GREAT
POWERS ARE IN AGREEMENT ABOUT A DETERMINED POLICY, WHO CAN
FIGHT AGAINST IT....?" AN FRG EMBASSY SOURCE REPORTEDLY COMMENTED
THAT THE IDEA THE FRG WOULD TEST A DEVICE IN BRAZIL WAS
"RIDICULOUS." IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE COMMUNIST DIPLO-
MAT'S REMARKS MAY HELP SPREAD THE IMPRESSION, THAT THE
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US AT BOTTOM IS WORRIED MORE ABOUT A NUCLEARIZED FRG
THAN ABOUT PROLIFERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO IN ITS APRIL 14 EDITION, QUOTED
AN UNNAMED "HIGH DIPLOMATIC SOURCE FROM THE SOCIALIST BLOC"
AS SAYING THAT "THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION
HAVE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THE "BRAZILIAN-GERMAN

(NUCLEAR) AGREEMENT WOULD BRING VERY GREAT RISKS TO THE WORLD." THIS SOURCE, DRAWING ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM EAST EUROPE ACCORDING TO O ESTADO, ADDED THAT THE FEAR OF THE TWO GREAT POWERS CONCERNS "THE DANGERS OF GREATER DEVELOPMENT OF GERMAN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY," AND THAT, FOR THIS REASON, "US AND SOVIET PRESSURES OUGHT TO BE AIMED MORE AT GERMANY THAN AT BRAZIL."

3. UPON ENTERING THE CONTEST DEFENDING A POSITION IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE US, THE SOVIET UNION, O ESTADO SAID, MADE CLEAR THE EXISTENCE OF A SECRET UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS AIMED AT IMPEDING THE EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT. O ESTADO QUOTED THE SOURCE AS SAYING: "WHEN THE TWO GIGANTIC POWERS ARE IN AGREEMENT ABOUT A DETERMINED POLICY, WHO CAN FIGHT AGAINST IT, FEEDING HOPES OF WINNING?"

4. IT IS NOT THE PERSPECTIVE OF BRAZIL POSSESSING ATOMIC BOMBS THAT FRIGHTENS MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, O ESTADO SAID. IT IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT GERMANY, WHICH ALREADY DOMINATES ALL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, WOULD UTILIZE IT IN SOME DISTANT PART OF BRAZILIAN TERRITORY TO CONDUCT ITS TESTS, SAFE FROM THE INQUISITIVE EYES WHICH FOLLOW ANY NUCLEAR ACTIVITY THAT TAKES PLACE IN EUROPE, THE INFORMANT ARGUED.

5. "IN EUROPE AND IN THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS IN JAPAN, NO ONE HAS YET FORGOTTEN WORLD WAR II AND ITS 22 MILLION DEATHS, AND (THUS NO ONE) CAN LOOK WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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SERENITY ON A GERMANY AGAIN ARMED. BRAZIL HAS NOT GIVEN ATTENTION TO THIS THREAT, AND THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT, VERY JEALOUS OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY, ERRONEOUSLY INTERPRETS WORLD PRESSURES AS ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT THE COUNTRY FROM DEVELOPING THE SOURCES OF ENERGY THAT IT NEEDS," THE DIPLOMAT EXPLAINED, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO.

6. THE NEGOTIATIONS IN MOSCOW BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND BREZHNEV, O ESTADO SAID, DID NOT FAIL AS THE PRESS CHARGED. THERE WERE AGREEMENTS ABOUT VARIOUS POINTS -- INCLUDING ABOUT THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM INVOLVING BRAZIL -- AND THE ATTITUDE OF CARTER'S GIVING UP THE REPROCESSING PLANT AT BARNWELL AND LIMITING THE USE OF "SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGIES" IS A FIRST GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE FOLLOWED BY A CORRESPONDING (GESTURE) ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET UNION, O ESTADO SAID. WHEN VANCE RETURNS TO MOSCOW IN MAY, THE NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE LIMITATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS ARE EXPECTED TO SHOW

SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS, O ESTADO ADDED.

7. O ESTADO THE NEXT DAY CARRIED A COMMENT BY AN UNNAMED GERMAN EMBASSY SOURCE ON THE ALLEGATION THAT THE FRG WANTED TO TEST EXPLOSIVES ON BRAZILIAN SOIL: "I NEVER HEARD SUCH A RIDICULOUS ACCUSATION. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT WE POSSESS THE TECHNOLOGY, MATERIAL, AND EQUIPMENT TO PRODUCE BOMBS. IF THERE WERE A WILL TO DO IT, WHY CHOOSE MATO GROSSO (COMMENT: A BRAZILIAN STATE IN THE INTERIOR) INSTEAD OF DEVELOPING THE

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 3187

PROJECT IN KARLSRUHE? IN 1954, WELL BEFORE THE NPT..., THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT PASSED A LAW WHICH PROHIBITED IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY ANY TESTS WITH NUCLEAR BOMBS. THE INITIATIVE WAS TAKEN UNILATERALLY, WITHOUT THERE BEING ANY PRESSURE IN THIS DIRECTION. THE LAW REFLECTED THE OPINION OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE, WHO DID NOT WISH TO POSSESS THIS TYPE OF ARMAMENT. IN 1977, THIS OPINION CONTINUES AS VALID AS IN 1954."

8. THE NUCLEAR STORY WAS CARRIED ALONGSIDE AN ARTICLE (BRASILIA A-55) QUOTING THE POLISH AMBASSADOR, EDWARD WYCHOWANIEC, AS SAYING THAT, AT THIS TIME OF

BRAZIL-US MISUNDERSTANDINGS, THE "SOCIALIST BLOC, REPRESENTING 40 PERCENT OF WORLD PRODUCTION, CAN REPRESENT AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS AN ACTIVE TRADING PARTNER." (IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS, WYCHOWANIEC DENIED HE CONFIDENTIAL

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MADE THIS ASSERTION.)

9. COMMENT. THE APPEARANCE OF THE NUCLEAR STORY NEXT TO THE ARTICLE QUOTING THE POLISH AMBASSADOR SUGGESTS THAT WYCHOWANIEC COULD HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE FOR THE NUCLEAR STORY. WYCHOWANIEC SUGGESTED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT EITHER THE SOVIET OR THE EAST GERMAN EMBASSY WAS THE SOURCE FOR THE NUCLEAR STORY. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY EXPOUNDED FORCEFULLY THE THEME PRESENTED IN THE NUCLEAR STORY IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM. THE NUCLEAR STORY, UNFORTUNATELY (BUT UNDOUBTEDLY PURPOSEFULLY AS FAR AS THE COMMUNIST SOURCE WAS CONCERNED), MAY HELP SPREAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US AT BOTTOM IS WORRIED MORE ABOUT A NUCLEARIZED FRG THAN ABOUT PROLIFERATION OF EXPLOSIVES CAPABILITY ELSEWHERE. THIS PERCEPTION HAS ALREADY GAINED MUCH CURRENCY AMONG BRAZILIANS. CRIMMINS

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